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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
for the  
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1953.





BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,  
"Eastlands",  
London Road,  
Basingstoke.

TEL. BASINGSTOKE 838.

May, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1958.

Vital Statistics - Once again the Registrar General's estimate of population remains about the same as the previous year. Statistics of note are the steady increase in births during the past five years with a diminishing percentage of illegitimately born children, both often signs of a better economy. Infant deaths, however, are the highest they have been for many years. The majority of these deaths occurred within the first 24 hours of birth and the most important cause was prematurity. With the present arrangement these cases are transported either before or after birth to the Royal Hants County Hospital for special care. This lends support to the popular clamour for a new hospital in Basingstoke with which this Council associates itself.

General Health - There will be few pleasant memories of the weather in 1958. The early months were cold and there were heavy snowfalls as late as April. As a result there was a rise in these months of minor ailment sickness benefit claims as reported by the local Insurance Office and school attendance was below average. During the remaining part of the year till December figures were average and infectious disease notifications were less than usual. Two cases of Poliomyelitis (paralytic) were notified in one household. The other feature of interest this year was an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting of unknown cause that occurred late in October and November.

Probably for the first time in the history of the district there were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. Notifications of new cases, however, were unduly high - these being largely accounted for by transfers and new cases among recent immigrants to the Country accepted into this district.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis was stepped up during the year and by December more than 65% of the 0 - 15 age group had been vaccinated. Towards the end of the year the age group was extended to 15 - 25.

Social and Sanitary Conditions - Details of the excellent progress with the slum clearance programme are included in the Public Health Inspector's report. 177 of the 268 houses considered unfit have been satisfactorily dealt with. In this and in the general improvement of existing dwelling houses and in preserving the rural character of the district the Improvement Grants made by the Council under the Housing Acts play an important part. It is encouraging to note that the Council have decided to continue making Improvement Grants.

There has been steady progress in main sewerage of the district. During the year a survey was made to consider other areas and it was decided to include the Byfleet district in Basing. It is probably opportune to consider an overall scheme to link up the present and future schemes to a more efficient and economic unit or units. The Council have also made a start this year in accepting Cesspool contents for treatment in their sewerage disposal works and it is hoped in the near future to dispose of all the loads from cesspools in this way rather than on fields.



It is also pleasing to note that all watercress growers in this district are now voluntarily treating their watercress by chlorination before sale. This has resulted from a meeting just a year ago to which all growers were invited and the scheme explained.

Requests for weekly collection of refuse from hotels, boarding schools and other large scale caterers continue. These have largely resulted from the increasing demands made by the new Food & Drugs Act and at the moment are being sympathetically considered - each case on its merits. It is possible some overall scheme will be necessary.

New houses continue to increase and it is the young families that move in. The County Educational services are hard put to meet the demand of new primary schools and at present this particularly applies to Oakley. Meanwhile old peoples' Voluntary Welfare Services have improved with a new club at Basing.

Yours faithfully,

P.L. KARNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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## STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area.....	74,790	acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate		
	Mid 1958....	17,560
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,646	
Rateable Value.....	£184,360	
Product of penny rate.....	£710	

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Live births { Légitimate.....	128	136	264	248	235
{ Illegitimate.....	5	2	7	10	18
Birth rate per 1000 population (corrected) ..			18.5	16.9	16.12
Average for England and Wales .....			16.4	16.1	15.6

Births were mainly in Basing (33); Bramley (30); Sherborne St. John (26); Pamber (20); East Oakley (15); Oakley (12); Sherfield-on-Loddon (13); Dummer (7); Mortimer West End (7) and Ramsdell (7).

DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Deaths from all causes.....	168	190	358	361	354
Death rate per thousand (corrected).....			10.2	8.2	8.4
Average for England and Wales.....			11.7	11.5	11.7

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	Total	1957	1956
From all causes.....	Nil	Nil	Nil



INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Legitimate.....	7	7	14	4	4
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1	1	-

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

	<u>Under 24 hrs.</u>	<u>Under 1 week</u>	<u>1-4 weeks</u>	<u>1-3 months</u>
Congenital malformations.....	2	1	-	-
Birth injuries.....	1	-	-	-
Prematurity.....	5	1	-	-
Asphyxia.....	1	-	-	-
Neglect at birth.....	1	-	-	-
Bronchitis.....	-	-	-	3

Infant mortality is the highest it has been for many years. Ten of the fifteen infant deaths occurred within 24 hours of birth with prematurity being the cause in six cases.

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Legitimate.....	1	1	2	4	1
Illegitimate.....	2	-	2	-	1

Analysis of Causes of Death.

<u>Code</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory.....	-	-	-	2	3
3	Syphilitic Disease.....	1	-	1	1	1
9	Other infections and Parasitic Disease..	-	1	1	-	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach.....	3	2	5	7	5
11	Lung & Bronchus....	9	-	9	8	6
12	Breast.....	-	4	4	6	5
13	Uterus.....	-	4	4	3	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	12	9	21	22	27
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	22	37	59	56	55
18	Coronary Disease or Angina.....	17	19	36	39	40
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	4	15	19	14	2
20	Other Heart Disease.....	46	51	97	83	91
21	Other circulatory Disease.....	6	7	13	21	12
22	Influenza.....	2	2	4	8	4
23	Pneumonia.....	3	10	13	24	40
24	Bronchitis.....	4	5	9	8	8
25	Other Disease of respiratory system.....	1	-	1	1	4
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	4	-	4	1	6
27	Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea.....	1	1	2	-	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	6	2	8	6	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-	2	3	2
31	Congenital malformations.....	1	2	3	3	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	13	15	28	29	19
33	Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	2	6	2	2
34	All other accidents.....	2	2	4	9	8
35	Suicide.....	5	-	5	1	2
36	Homicide.....	-	-	-	1	-



## EPIDEMIOLOGY.

## General Health.

There was a rise in minor ailment illnesses during the first quarter of the year as reported by the National Insurance Office and in school attendance. The cold weather and the snowfalls till late April no doubt played a part. During the remaining part of the year until December, sickness claims and school attendance remained average for the year. In December there was a rise which continued into the next year.

Notifications of infectious diseases remained low, but very early in the year two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the same household. These were the only two cases which occurred. Towards the end of the year there was a widespread outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting. Stools sent, returned negative reports for organisms. A similar outbreak preceded the influenza outbreak of 1957 and similarly an outbreak of influenza occurred early in 1958. Also of interest during the year were the two large outbreaks of food poisoning which occurred at Park Prewett Hospital.

## Cancer and other Malignant Growths.

Deaths due to or associated with:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Average age at death</u>	<u>Age incidence</u>
Cancer of Lung & Bronchus.....	9	63	57 - 67
Larynx.....	1		
Oesophagus.....	4	68	44 - 80
Stomach.....	6	63	42 - 80
Colon.....	5	76	71 - 81
Rectum.....	2		
Breast.....	4	62	56 - 72
Uterus.....	4	60	48 - 78
Ovary.....	1		
Bladder.....	2		
Gall Bladder.....	1		
Thyroid.....	1		
Pancreas.....	1		
Myelomatosis.....	1		
Multiple Carcinoma.....	1		
Retro peritoneal Sarcoma..	2		

Age Groups	1 - 44	Male		Female	
		1	1	7	8
	45 - 64				
	65 - 75			10	7
	75 +			6	5

### Notifiable Diseases.



### Food Poisoning.

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred in the Park Prewett Hospital, the first involving 70 cases and the next 153 cases. The illness consisted largely of vomiting attacks with some diarrhoea. In each outbreak the cases all occurred on the same day and were associated with the distribution of a consignment of cheese. It was limited to only certain wards although cheese was issued to all wards, but the timing of the attack varied in the male and female sections coinciding with the distribution of cheese in the morning to one and in the evening to the other. It was later found that some of the cheese tested gave a culture of *Staphylococcus Aureus* (coagulase positive). These cheeses had a different appearance to the others.

### Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in one house. Both were with paralysis, although one case completely recovered. They occurred early in January, both were girls, aged 13 and 19. Stools specimens from other members of the family failed to culture the polio virus.

### Immunisation - Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

During the year 137 primary courses were given, of which 30 were with combined vaccine (with whooping cough) and 104 with triple vaccine (tetanus added). In addition 158 were given booster doses.

Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)	Under 1 year	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total under 15 years
1954 - 1958	28	650	901	140	1719
1953 or earlier			368	1226	1594

The figures are lower than last year owing to the fact that immunisation was discontinued during the mid two quarters of the year following the advice of the Ministry regarding the danger of association of poliomyelitis with multiple dose vaccines.

### Vaccination - Smallpox.

The percentage of children under one year successfully vaccinated during the year ending 31st December 1958 is:-

Basingstoke Rural District	1958	1957	1956
	68%	85%	81%

### Vaccination - Poliomyelitis.

During the year 1810 children were given a course of Poliomyelitis vaccine (2 doses). This now represents 65% of the group 0 - 15 years who have so far completed a 2 dose course. At the end of the year the scheme was extended to the 15 - 25 age group but the number vaccinated was small - 38.

### Poliomyelitis vaccination figures in age groups.

Born	1958	Born	1958
1943	90	1951	119
1944	95	1952	119
1945	109	1953	147
1946	106	1954	135
1947	103	1955	145
1948	114	1956	150
1949	111	1957	133
1950	101	1958	9
		Expectant Mothers	102



SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The district comprises 34 parishes and is mainly agricultural and residential. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in new houses built both by the Council and privately. Amenities have also improved - there is now a piped water supply in most areas and sewerage in all the larger parishes. The estimated population as given by the Registrar General is steady but infant births and other factors appear to indicate a rising population. There has been some improvement in the schools in the area and more improvement has been scheduled for the near future by the County Council - it is particularly necessary for early action to be taken at Oakley.

General Health Services.

The County Council is the Health Authority. The local District Health Sub-Committee are responsible for helping and advising on these services.

Maternity and Child Welfare - Health Visiting.

Child Welfare Centres are situated throughout the district. Activities, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation and the distribution of welfare foods.

Attendance at these centres has continued to be high, but there are no items of interest to report.

District Midwifery and Home Nursing.

Annual Statistics for 1958 - 1957 figures in brackets for comparison.

	<u>CASES</u>		<u>VISITS</u>
	<u>Midwifery - All Cases</u>	<u>Gen:</u>	
Bramley	34 (46)	108 (255)	4336 (3419)
Preston Candover	17 (10)	48 (73)	1158 (1145)
Silchester	9 (25)	30 (53)	1055 (887)
Upton Grey	27 (23)	173 (140)	2454 (928)
Oakley	28 (22)	95 (136)	1760 (1166)
Basing	15 (-)	8 (-)	701 (-)

Comparison of figures with previous years is difficult as there have been many changes in staff during the year. Midwifery shows an increase and there is a definite fall in the General Cases but a marked rise in all areas of the number of visits undertaken, partly due to the increase in midwifery cases and the National Perinatal Survey and partly due to added work with old people.

The report on the Perinatal Survey is eagerly awaited.

Home Help Services.Summary of cases assisted.

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
Maternity	10	10
Pre or Post Maternity	3	-
General Sickness	5	5
Post Hospital	2	2
Child Care	1	-
Chronic Sickness	3	2
Aged Sickness	10	6
Aged and Infirmit	23	17
Tuberculosis	3	2
Residential	4	-
	—	—
	64	44



Old Peoples' Welfare.

Increasing attention is being paid to Welfare work among the aged. During the year new clubs commenced at Basing and Silchester, making a total of 5 clubs in the district.

Once again I am grateful to the Welfare Officer for statistics of the work of the Area Welfare Officer for the year (comparative figures for 1957 are given in brackets).

Visits, Applications and Admission to Welfare Accommodation.

No. of cases visited	-	33 (43)
Applications	-	9 (15)
Admissions	-	11 (11)
Senile aged persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Section 2, Lunacy Act	-	11 (9)
Visits to aged sick persons and confined to bed service for chronic sick	-	2 (7)

There is a welcome fall in the number of cases requiring visiting and confined to bed service for admissions to chronic sick wards. The Welfare Officer has had more help from the Health Visitor and District Nurse and, of course, the Home Help Service still plays an important part, but I do feel that the newly formed Old Peoples' Clubs and Voluntary Welfare Groups are already producing a good effect on the welfare of the aged. No cases were referred to me for action under Section 47 this year.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Housing.

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 (as at 31.12.58).

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Completed 1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Private	580	104	69	150
Council	596	20	53	60

The houses completed by the Council were at East Oakley. In addition modernisation of the older houses in Newfound and Ellisfield were undertaken. The Council concentrated on housing to replace houses considered unfit and one and two bedroom houses and bungalows were erected. This has helped the aged and the young family groups considerably. Now that the sewerage scheme is completed in Basing plans for new houses in that parish are being speeded.

Unfit Houses.

Details of the excellent progress in improving and demolishing unfit properties are in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

Water Supply.

Piped water supplies are now available in all the parishes in the district. A scheme for Ellisfield was completed this year and schemes for bringing water to small groups of houses and farms are now being considered.

Regular sampling of water is done by the Department (details in the Public Health Inspector's Report) and by the Statutory Water Company.

Sewerage.

Basing. The laying of the sewers has been completed but awaits final inspection. Some difficulty was experienced in the portion passing through the railway embankment. While concrete grouting of the metal pipe was being done a section of the pipe was raised about 9" from the bed of the sewer and did not settle. It was decided, after advice from the Consulting Engineers, to close the adjoining manholes and convert them into a syphon. The sewerage disposal works and pumping station are still being constructed.

Sherborne St. John.

Owing to some difficulty with the drying of the sludge at these disposal works it was decided to add a pair of sludge digestion tanks, the first was completed during the year.

Bramley. The sewerage disposal works were extended to accommodate the increased houses built at Moat Close and the sewerage from the new school.

A survey was made with a view to further provision of sewers in the district. It was felt that some parts of Basing not included in the scheme required to be considered at an early date, partly on account of the density of the buildings and also because some of the Cesspits were showing signs of strain. This was sympathetically considered by the Council and application made to the Minister to extend the scheme. Other areas surveyed were Bramley and Monk Sherborne. No urgency appeared to exist in these parishes at present, but it was felt that they would have to be considered if there was further growth of houses. The parish of Oakley and the adjoining houses in East Oakley were not surveyed as the majority of the houses now built are Council owned, and these are sewered - the area also has a chalky subsoil.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during 1958.

During the year steady progress continued in the many branches of public health work undertaken by your Officers. In general it was possible to achieve improvements by an informal approach to owners and occupiers and in no instance was legal action necessary.

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections.

Houses under Public Health Acts.....	599
Houses under Housing Acts.....	315
Houses under Housing Acts 1949 - 1954....	233
Overcrowded Houses.....	14
Re-Housing applications.....	113
re Disinfection of Premises.....	23
re Water Supply.....	195
Petroleum Installations.....	35
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites....	202
Factories.....	25
Schools.....	8
Refuse Collection and Disposal.....	292
Rodent Control.....	29
Cesspool Emptying Service.....	64
Re-visits following service of notices...	166
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.....	108
Complaints received and investigated....	79

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

Outstanding December 1957	Served 1958	Complied with 1958	Outstanding December 1958
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
6	106	10	41
		7	44
			9
			103



FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	<u>No. in District</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
General Provision Shops	51	80
Meat Shops	5	29
Inns and Off Licences	43	22
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	8	43
Bakehouses	4	14
Registered Ice Cream Premises	47	60
Registered Sausage Manufacturers	5	25
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes	5	3
Dairies and Milk Distributors	36	41
Schools	24	8
Clubs	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>
Total -	239	328
	==	==

MILK SAMPLING.

<u>Grade of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised	28	27	1
Tuberculin Tested	20	16	4
	—	—	—
Total -	<u>48</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>5</u>

11 Samples were submitted for biological examination. Brucella abortus organisms were isolated in two samples. Both were from the same herd and the affected animal was isolated.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

16 Samples were taken and were reported upon as follows:-

Grade 1 - 16  
" 2 - nil  
" 3 - nil  
" 4 - nil

There are no ice cream manufacturers in this District and only pre-packed ice cream is sold.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No public slaughterhouses exist in the area.



UN SOUND FOOD.

The following foods were surrendered to your Officers as being unfit for human consumption:-

Canned foods	-	90 lbs
Meat	-	60 lbs
Dried fruit	-	1 cwt
Potatoes	-	1 cwt
Miscellaneous	-	4 lbs

FOOD HYGIENE.

With few exceptions, it has become apparent that food handlers are now "hygiene conscious". Many premises have actually reached a higher standard than that demanded by law. Continued persuasion will, however, be necessary at a number of premises in order to achieve better standards of cleanliness.

In January a meeting of watercress growers in the area was arranged, and the Health Department's recommendations for the efficient chlorination of this food were readily accepted. By the end of the year, nearly all growers in this district were chlorinating their crops after packaging. The remaining growers were taking steps to introduce the procedure at an early date.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public mains supplies were sampled regularly during the year, details of these are as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Bacteriological	9	nil
Chemical	9	nil

Of 19 samples taken from private sources, 4 proved unsatisfactory. Action was taken to provide a satisfactory alternative supply in these cases, or improvements to wells were made when no piped supply was available.

A survey of the district was made and a report submitted in February on those areas which lack a piped water supply.

Excepting for a few isolated groups of properties, none of which comprises more than 12 dwellings, all areas now enjoy a piped supply from either public or private sources. During the year a large mains extension to serve the village of Ellisfield and a small one at West Heath, Ramsdell, were approved.

SWIMMING POOL.

Bacteriological examination of the water from Basing Swimming Pool was regularly carried out in the summer months. All the samples were satisfactory, showing the chlorinating procedure to be efficient.



HOUSING ACTS.

Continued good progress in dealing with unfit properties took place during the year. The following shews the position at the end of 1958, and the progress made in the 10 year programme undertaken by the Council in August 1955:-

<u>PROPERTIES</u>	<u>C A T E G O R Y</u>			
	<u>5C</u>	<u>5B</u>	<u>5A</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total unfit August 1955.....	93	79	96	268
Demolished.....	41	7	9	57
Orders served and awaiting demolition.....	1	4	1	6
"Time and Place" Notices awaiting consideration.....	7	2	1	10
Closing Orders.....	2	6	2	10
Owners' Formal Undertakings Accepted.....	19	5	3	27
Improved and rendered fit for habitation.....	13	15	15	43
In course of improvement and re-conditioning.....	3	7	11	21
Action deferred (Vyne Estate Properties).....	1	2	2	3
	87	48	42	177
	=====			

It will be noted that although only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years have elapsed since this clearance programme was commenced, only one third of the total problem still remains.

During 1958 a further 10 families comprising 29 persons were rehoused from unfit houses. Formal action resulted in 22 more houses being demolished, 7 being closed and the Council accepted from owners, 5 undertakings to use dwellings for purposes other than human habitation.

Improvement Grants.

15 Applications in respect of 21 properties were approved during the year. During the past 8 years over 6% of the total number of houses in the district have been brought up to modern standards by means of grant aid.

Certificates of Disrepair.

3 Certificates of Disrepair were granted during the year.

Repairs.

99 Houses were rendered fit for habitation, as a result of informal action by your Officers.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

A fortnightly kerbside collection of refuse and salvage operated in all parishes and disposal by controlled tipping continued at Sherborne St. John.



Many hundreds of yards of covering material were delivered to this tip at no cost to the Council and this, together with the mechanical plant available, enabled the tip to be maintained in a good condition throughout the year. Regular inspections ensured that fly and vermin infestations were kept under control. During the summer months every load of refuse was treated with insecticides and vehicles were disinfested internally on account of the heavy fly larvae breeding which occurs in bins awaiting a fortnightly collection.

The Shelvoke & Drewry Freighters gave excellent service throughout the year, but the reserve Dennis vehicle proved unreliable.

The Depot at Coronation Road remains adequate for present requirements.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and a bonus scheme for the employees continued:-

	Quantity				Value		
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	lbs	£	s	d
Paper -	66	10	3	14	528	0	0
Rags -	1	10	2	1	41	0	0
Metals -	3	3	0	0	17	0	0
					586	0	0
					=====		

Comparative figures with former years are:-

1957 - £496  
1956 - £533

#### CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

Ratepayers continued to make the fullest use of this service and considerable overtime again became necessary.

The Karrier/Yorkshire 750 gallon vehicle was continuously overworked and as a result repairs were more frequent and their cost heavy.

Sites for the disposal of cesspool emptying contents became more difficult to obtain and an increasing number of farmers refused to accept the material on their arable land. On public health grounds it is ideal to dispose of loads into public sewers. Such facilities are very restricted and it is most uneconomical to travel long distances to the two plants available for this purpose, one of which is owned by a neighbouring authority.

Charges for the work remained at:-

1st load (or part load).....30/-  
Subsequent loads (or part loads)23/-

The Rate Fund continues to contribute to this service a sum equal to one half the cost of emptying domestic pits after the owner has paid fully for the service twice in a financial year.

A 10% reduction on all charges where a contract is entered into , continues.

During the year 2,022 loads were removed, 12,608 miles covered and the income from the service was £2,197.



FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

25 Inspections were made and it was found necessary to serve 3 written notices, all of which were complied with.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

A total of 115 inspections were made, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. 7 Written notices were served and 5 complied with.

PESTS.

No premises were found with bed-bug infestations, but a block of four houses were treated for flea infestations.

MAIN DRAINAGE.

In the parishes of North Waltham, Sherborne St. John and Sherfield-on-Loddon, 477 properties were connected to public sewers by the end of the year.

A survey of the unsewered parts of Basing was made to assess the future drainage requirements of this rapidly expanding parish. Surveys were also carried out in Bramley and Monk Sherborne.

The Council considered that the greatest need for main drainage arises at Old Basing, and have instructed their Consulting Engineers to submit a detailed scheme with estimates.

Whilst the same urgency appears not to exist as respects Bramley and Monk Sherborne, it seems likely that the sewerage of these parishes will need reconsideration in a few years time.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS INTO WATER CLOSETS.

In the parishes where public sewers are available the Council have now assisted owners of 69 properties towards the cost of converting pail closets into water closets in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's sewers in Sherborne St. John, Sherfield-on-Loddon and North Waltham were test baited, with negative results.

Details of other rodent control work carried out during the year were:-

1) Number of properties inspected -

(a) Domestic and business	-	1,532
(b) Agricultural	-	268

2) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)

(a) Domestic and Business	-	2,650
(b) Agricultural	-	1,221



3) Properties found infested by

(a) Rats	-	306
(b) Mice	-	71

4) Number of properties treated by

Council's Rodent Operators	-	362
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5) "Block Control" schemes carried

out	-	80
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No unduly high incidence of rat or mice infestations occurred. Most parishes were surveyed by the Rodent Operators and the Contract Service continued for rat disinfection at 61 farms. The income from this service was £1,050.

LICENCES IN FORCE.

Petroleum	-	91
Slaughtermen	-	2
Slaughterhouses	-	1
Game Dealers	-	2
Moveable Dwellings	-	71
Milk Distributors	-	33
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	-	47

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In concluding this report I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Public Health Committee for the support I have received and the staff for their willing assistance in dealing with the intriguing problems which arose.

Yours obediently,

P.C. BOX,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

